1 Identification of chemical features that influence mycomembrane permeation

2 and antitubercular activity

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- 36

37 Abstract

38 Tuberculosis (TB), caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb), is the deadliest 39 single-agent infection worldwide. Current antibiotic treatment for TB takes a 40 minimum of four months, underscoring the need for better therapeutics. The unique 41 mycobacterial cell envelope, particularly the outermost mycomembrane, has long 42 been thought to promote intrinsic antibiotic resistance by limiting compound entry 43 into Mtb. Understanding chemical features that influence permeation across the 44 mycomembrane may enable more accurate predictions of whole cell anti-Mtb 45 activity, leading to development of more effective antibacterials. Here we query the 46 mycomembrane permeation of over 1500 azide-tagged compounds in live Mtb with 47 the bioorthogonal click chemistry-based assay PAC-MAN. We use cheminformatics 48 and machine learning to identify chemical features associated with mycomembrane permeation and show that they have predictive value via systematic modification of 49 50 two small molecule series. Additionally, we find that chemical features that influence 51 mycomembrane permeation correlate with anti-Mtb activity in large compound 52 libraries. These findings suggest that the mycomembrane is indeed a significant 53 barrier to whole cell activity in Mtb and provide a rational framework for designing or modifying compounds to overcome this barrier. 54

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56 Introduction

57 Tuberculosis (TB) caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) consistently claims 58 over one million lives each year¹. Antibiotic treatment is lengthy, complex, and 59 variably effective. High doses are often required for TB treatment, which in turn 60 increase the risk of side effects and reduce patient compliance. Better drugs and 61 drug regimens to target TB are urgent public health priorities. 62 An outstanding challenge in developing or improving drugs for TB, as with many 63 other diseases, is ensuring that drug candidates accumulate within the cells implicated in disease pathogenesis^{2, 3}. To achieve whole cell activity, a molecule 64 65 must overcome several barriers, including membranes, efflux, and metabolism, to 66 accumulate with the kinetics and at the concentrations required to effectively engage 67 its target. The physicochemical features or moieties of a molecule that enable it to 68 overcome individual accumulation barriers are divergent and sometimes at odds⁴. 69 Moreover, even within bacteria there are likely inter-species and genera differences 70 in molecule accumulation. For example, the extent and/or pattern of accumulation for 71 certain antibacterials, nutrients, and other molecules differ in mycobacteria relative to Gram-negative bacteria⁵⁻⁸. This inference has been generalized with the 72 73 determination of molecular correlates of accumulation for the Gram-negative species Escherichia coli and Pseudomonas aeruginosa^{9, 10} and the mycobacterial pathogen 74 75 *Mycobacterium abscessus*¹¹. Strikingly, physicochemical properties alone, including those associated with E. coli or P. aeruginosa accumulation, fail to predict M. 76 77 abscessus accumulation and necessitated a deep learning approach to identify 78 correlates¹¹. These findings indicate that molecule accumulation in Mtb is likely to be 79 a complex phenotype.

Identifying chemical features that promote Mtb cell accumulation may enable more
rapid development of new tuberculosis treatments. One way to address the
complexity of accumulation is to focus on chemical features that enable a molecule
to overcome a single barrier. For example, it has long been assumed that Mtb and
other mycobacterial pathogens are intrinsically resistant to certain drugs in part
because of the impermeability of their outermost mycomembrane^{6, 12, 13}. This
assumption is predicated on studies showing that mycomembrane disruptions

sensitize mycobacteria to a subset of antibacterials^{6, 7, 12-15}. However, activity is an
indirect proxy for uptake; collateral metabolic dysfunction from cell envelope
perturbation¹⁶⁻¹⁹ may also impact drug sensitivity.

90 Here we addressed the complexity of Mtb accumulation by first screening a small 91 molecule library for mycomembrane permeation and then deploying machine 92 learning to discover chemical features that influence this phenotype. We used our 93 recently-developed, click chemistry-based assay Peptidoglycan Accessibility Click-Mediated AssessmeNt (PAC-MAN^{7, 20}; Fig. 1a) to measure the permeation of over 94 95 1500 small molecules across the mycomembrane of live Mtb. Cheminformatics 96 analyses suggest that the rules for mycomembrane permeability are not simple, as 97 physicochemical properties have scaffold-dependent effects. To capture structure-98 function relationships more holistically, we trained a neural network to predict 99 mycomembrane permeability for any compound, then gueried for chemical features 100 predictive of permeability. *De novo* chemical synthesis and mycomembrane 101 permeation testing of a two small molecule series confirmed that the chemical 102 features identified by cheminformatics and machine learning are predictive. Finally, 103 we showed that scaffolds and other chemical features that predict mycomembrane 104 permeation also correlate with anti-Mtb activity. Our work supports the long-standing 105 hypothesis that the mycomembrane is a major barrier to whole cell activity in Mtb 106 and suggests that improving the ability of a molecule to permeate the 107 mycomembrane may aid the rational design or redesign of more effective drugs for 108 tuberculosis.

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111 **Results**

112 High-throughput screening of mycomembrane permeability

113 The PAC-MAN assay (Fig. 1a) first proceeds via metabolic labeling of peptidoglycan, 114 the cell wall polymer immediately beneath the arabinogalactan-mycomembrane layer 115 of the cell envelope, with a dibenzocyclooctyne (DBCO) probe. A portion of the peptidoglycan-embedded DBCO is captured via bioorthogonal, strain-promoted 116 alkyne-azide cycloaddition (SPAAC²¹⁻²³) with azide-tagged test molecules. The 117 118 remaining DBCO groups are revealed via SPAAC with a fluorescent azide. The level 119 of mycobacterial cell fluorescence, measured by flow cytometry, inversely correlates with permeation of the azide test molecule across the mycomembrane^{7, 20}. We used 120 121 PAC-MAN to screen Mtb mc²6206 (H37Rv $\Delta panCD \Delta leuCD$)²⁴ and the model organism Mycobacterium smegmatis mc²155 (Msm)²⁵ with 1572 azide test 122 123 molecules from three sources: 1152 synthesized via fluorosulfuryl azide chemistry from the corresponding primary amine (Sharpless/Dong²⁶), 380 purchased from 124 125 Enamine, and 40 purchased from various commercial sources (Fig. 1b; Fig. S1). 126 The latter two sources contain molecules with primary amines. To control for the intrinsic reactivities of azide test molecules toward DBCO^{7, 20}, we also screened 127 128 DBCO-functionalized polystyrene beads that have bacteria-like dimensions but are 129 devoid of a permeability barrier (Fig. 1b). Previously we controlled for reactivity and 130 calculated mycomembrane permeation by exposing DBCO-labeled beads and 131 mycobacteria to different concentrations of azide test molecules, then calculating the 132 difference in concentration of test azide molecule that competes fluorescence by 133 50% in the two systems $(\Delta \log_{10} CC_{50})^7$. For higher-throughput calculation of



Figure 1. High-throughput screening of mycomembrane permeability. (a) Schematic of PAC-MAN assay (adapted from⁷). In *Step 1*, Mtb or Msm is incubated with the DBCObearing **TetD** probe to tag cell wall peptidoglycan. Mycobacteria are then exposed to an azide-modified test molecule (*Step 2*) followed by an azide fluorophore (*Step 3*). Test azides that do not permeate the mycomembrane do not access cell wall-embedded DBCO. DBCO that do not react in *Step 2* are free to react with azide fluorophores in *Step 3*, resulting in high fluorescence. Conversely, test azides that permeate the mycomembrane can access and react with DBCO in *Step 2*, preventing DBCO from reacting with azide fluorophores in *Step 3* and resulting in low fluorescence. (b) PAC-MAN screening of three test azide libraries: Sharpless/Dong (1152), Enamine (380), or other commercial sources (40). Screening was performed on Mtb, Msm, and DBCO-polystyrene beads to normalize for test azide reactivity. Standardized residuals were extracted from log-linear regression analyses for individual libraries as shown. Values for standardized residuals are inversely proportional to mycomembrane permeability of test azide.

- 134 mycomembrane permeation, we instead exposed DBCO-labeled beads and
- 135 mycobacteria to fixed concentrations of test azide molecules then performed log-
- 136 linear regression analyses to calculate the differences between observed and

expected fluorescence (standardized residuals; Fig. 1b; Fig. S2). The standardized
residuals for compounds shared between the Sharpless/Dong and Enamine libraries
were consistent (Fig. S3).

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141 Cheminformatics analyses identify chemical features associated with

142 mycomembrane permeability

143 We first analyzed the correlation between the presence of small chemical scaffolds and mycomembrane permeability. We used a permissive strategy (Fig. 2a, Fig. S4), 144 which permits the scaffold of interest to be fused or not with other rings, as well as a 145 146 "greedy" strategy that excludes the ring-fused versions of the scaffold (**Fig. 2b**). For 147 both Msm and Mtb we found that aromatic nitrogen-containing scaffolds like indole, imidazole, or pyrazole correlate positively with permeation (negative medians for 148 149 standardized residuals), while scaffolds like cyclopentane or cyclohexane correlate 150 negatively (positive medians).

151 We next investigated the correlation between mycomembrane permeation and physicochemical properties (Fig. 2c). When analyzed as a whole, our Mtb dataset 152 did not reveal obvious correlations. Notably, the physicochemical properties 153 previously shown to correlate with Gram-negative accumulation^{9, 10, 27} were not 154 155 associated with mycomembrane permeation (Fig. S5). Reasoning that the 156 contributions of physicochemical properties may depend on the structural context in 157 which they occur, we repeated the cheminformatics analyses after grouping 158 compounds by the presence of specific scaffolds as in Fig. 2a. We found that the

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Figure 2. Chemical scaffolds and physicochemical properties that correlate with mycomembrane permeability. (a) Mycomembrane permeability (standardized [St] residuals) for test azides grouped by the presence of a specific ring-containing scaffold, indicated on top. (b) "Greedy" scaffold analysis excludes the fused rings structures. Numbers below the plots are the number of compounds in each group. (c) Correlation between mycomembrane permeability and selected physicochemical properties for all test azides (whole dataset, *bottom*) and for subgroups bearing the scaffolds plotted in (**a-b**). Numbers in brackets are the number of compounds in each group. Red and blue respectively denote positive and negative correlations between the indicated physicochemical properties and mycomembrane permeation. For descriptors explanation see **Figure S1**.

161 effects of physicochemical properties on mycomembrane permeability varied by 162 scaffold. For example, topological polar surface area (TPSA) and log partition coefficient (logP; Crippen logP calculation from RDKit²⁸) have strong, positive 163 164 correlations with mycomembrane permeation when a molecule contains an indazole 165 or naphthalene, respectively, but have weak and/or negative correlations with 166 mycomembrane permeation in the context of most other scaffolds. These 167 observations are significant as lipophilicity is generally viewed as a positive attribute for antitubercular drugs²⁹ and underscores the challenge of identifying molecular 168 169 correlates of Mtb accumulation even for a single barrier.

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171 Machine learning predicts chemical features that are associated with

172 mycomembrane permeation

173 We built a machine learning (ML) model, called Mycobacterial Permeability neural Network (MycoPermeNet), to capture the complex relationship between chemical 174 175 structure and mycomembrane permeability (Fig. 3a, Fig. S6). Inspired by recent successes in deep learning for antibacterial discovery^{30, 31}, the model takes SMILES 176 177 strings and Mtb screening data (standardized residuals) as inputs, then uses a twostage process to predict mycomembrane permeability. First, it learns to generate 178 179 vector representations of chemical compounds, called embeddings, using a message passing neural network on molecular graphs implemented in Chemprop³². 180 181 It then uses a downstream multilayer perceptron to convert embeddings into a 182 permeability prediction (*i.e.*, predicted standardized residuals). The two stages are 183 trained independently using an 80-10-10 train-validate-test split to optimize 184 hyperparameters and perform model selection. The multilayer perceptron performed



Figure 3. Machine learning model development and interpretation. (a) Pipeline for machine learning (ML) model MycoPermeNet development. (b) ML-predicted vs. experimentally-observed mycomembrane permeation data (standardized residuals) for both the training (*left*) and validation (*right*) sets. (c) The 20 most-permeable chemical scaffolds predicted from the ML model. (d) Pipeline for surrogate XGBoost ML model SHAP-based interpretability studies. (e) Ranking of top-15 (out of 26) physicochemical properties prioritized by the ML model to drive its prediction across all compounds. Molecular descriptors calculated by RDkit and Collaborative Drug Discovery (CDD) Vault. (f) Interpretation of the ML predictions for a specific molecule (W1 peptide, see Fig. 4a) from the perspective of physicochemical properties (descriptors). Rationalization and quantification of the positive or negative effect of the top-15 (out of 26) descriptors see Figure S7. RMSE: squared root of mean squared error; MAE: mean absolute error. For descriptors explanation see Fig S1. N = number of compounds; F = number of descriptors. D = dimension of embeddings.

186 the best on the validation set out of several model architectures tested (Fig. S6). Our final model achieves R², RMSE, and MAE respectively of 0.74, 0.50, and 0.37 for the 187 188 train set and 0.72, 0.37, and 0.41 for the held-out test sets (Fig. 3b), indicating a 189 strong relationship between measured and predicted mycomembrane permeability. 190 Moreover, we achieve Spearman rank correlation coefficients of 0.85 on the train set 191 and 0.86 on the held-out test set, demonstrating that our model correctly ranks the 192 relative permeability of compounds even better than it predicts their absolute 193 permeability scores.

194 To test whether MycoPermeNet is learning reasonable relationships between 195 molecular structure and mycomembrane permeability, we asked the model to predict 196 permeability scores for every Bemis-Murcko scaffold found in the dataset (n=217). 197 Among the 20 scaffolds predicted as most permeable (Fig. 3c) we found various indole or indole-like scaffolds, as well as imidazole- and pyrazole-like scaffolds. The 198 199 concordance between the ML- and cheminformatics-based (Fig. 2) analyses serves 200 as a validation of the ML approach and further reinforces that the presence of certain 201 nitrogen aromatic heterocycles correlates with mycomembrane permeability.

202 To gain additional insights into the physicochemical properties that correlate with molecule permeation across the mycomembrane we performed interpretability 203 204 studies of MycoPermeNet (Fig. 3d-f; Fig. S7). Because our model is based on input 205 chemical structures, which are meaningful individually but difficult to summarize across our large and diverse dataset, we built a surrogate model³³ to determine 206 207 which human-interpretable chemical descriptors have the highest influence on the 208 permeability predictions made by MycoPermeNet. Specifically, we used a surrogate XGBoost³⁴ to predict the outputs of MycoPermeNet from 26 hand-selected input 209

210 features (23 calculated with RDKit²⁸ and 3 calculated with Collaborative Drug Discovery [CDD] Vault³⁵) that we considered important for mycomembrane 211 212 permeability. After training our surrogate XGBoost model (R², RMSE, and MAE 213 respectively of 0.84, 0.33, and 0.25 for the train set and 0.83, 0.38, and 0.28 for the 214 held-out test set, where the R² on the held-out test set explains 83 percent of the 215 variance in relationship between the features and MycoPermeNet), we interpret its 216 features using SHAP³⁶ (SHapley Additive exPlanations; Fig. 3d). In this analysis, the 217 two most influential physicochemical properties are TPSA and logP (Fig. 3e; Fig. 218 **S7a**). While SHAP returns properties that drive mycomembrane permeability 219 predictions across the dataset, it can also predict which features are responsible for 220 the permeability prediction for individual compounds (Fig. 3f; Fig. S7b). This 221 analysis provides both a qualitative and quantitative interpretation of the impact of physicochemical properties on mycomembrane permeability. 222

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224 Chemical features that are associated with mycomembrane permeation have225 high predictive value

We hypothesized that molecular features identified by cheminformatics and/or
predicted by MycoPermeNet to correlate with mycomembrane permeability are
causative. We first tested this hypothesis with a pentapeptide series (Phe-Lys-PheLys-Phe) in which we systematically substituted phenylalanines for tryptophans (Fig.
4a). The side chains of phenylalanine and tryptophan respectively bear benzene,
which is weakly and negatively associated with mycomembrane permeability, and

indole, which is strongly and positively associated with mycomembrane permeability



Figure 4. Chemical features identified by cheminformatics and ML influence mycomembrane permeation. (a-d) Analysis of a pentapeptide series in which benzene-containing phenylalanines are systematically substituted with indole-containing tryptophans (W1-3). The presence of indole or benzene scaffolds are respectively associated with more or less mycomembrane permeability (Fig. 2a-b). (a) Peptide chemical structures; (b) PAC-MAN results for Mtb and beads; (c) observed $(\Delta \log_{10}CC_{50})$ and (d) ML-predicted mycomembrane permeability. (e-h) Analysis of an antitubercular candidate series. JSF-2985 (e, *top*) was derivatized to bear an azide and chemical scaffolds that are associated with more (imidazole, pyrrole, pyrrolidine) or less (cyclopentane) mycomembrane permeability (Fig. 2a-b). (f) PAC-MAN results for Mtb and beads; (g) observed $(\Delta \log_{10}CC_{50})$ and (h) ML-predicted mycomembrane permeability. (i) Correlation between observed and ML-predicted mycomembrane permeability.

(Fig. 2a-b). We found that substitution of phenylalanines for tryptophans enhanced
mycomembrane permeation of the peptides in both Mtb and Msm (Fig. 4b-c; Fig.
S8), consistent with both cheminformatics analyses (Fig. 2a-b) and MycoPermeNet
predictions (Fig. 4d).

237 We next tested our hypothesis with a small molecule series based on JSF-2985, an antitubercular small molecule we previously reported³⁷. We synthesized **JSF-2985** 238 239 analogs via replacement of the 2-position primary amide's N-H with moieties that 240 correlate positively (imidazole, pyrazole, and pyrrolidine) or negatively 241 (cyclopentane) with mycomembrane permeation (Fig. 4e). We chose the 2-position 242 amide N-H as the location of the new substituents based on docking studies that 243 suggest that the amide group is not directly involved in the engagement of the target but instead lies outside the binding pocket and it is thus exposed to the solvent (Fig. 244 245 **S9**). We found that **JSF-2985** derivatives with imidazole, pyrazole, and pyrrolidine 246 scaffolds permeate the mycomembrane better than the JSF-2985 derivative bearing 247 cyclopentane (Fig. 4f-g), consistent with both cheminformatics analyses (Fig. 2a-b) 248 and MycoPermeNet predictions (Fig. 4h). The excellent correlation between MLpredicted and observed permeation of the mycomembrane across the two small 249 250 molecule series (Fig. 4i) suggests the potential to rationally tune the ability of a 251 molecule to traverse this barrier.

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Chemical features that predict mycomembrane permeability correlate with whole cell activity

We and many others have shown that mycomembrane disruption sensitizes Mtb to some antibacterials^{6, 7, 12-15}. Thus, we hypothesized that mycomembrane permeation is a key determinant of whole cell anti-Mtb activity. Our docking studies (**Fig. S9**)

suggested that the **JSF-2985** derivatives have a high probability of target binding.

However, we found that Mtb growth inhibition by these molecules did not reflect their

- 260 mycomembrane permeation profiles (**Fig. S9b-c**), highlighting the complex
- 261 relationship between molecule accumulation and activity.

262 We reasoned that a larger dataset, both in terms of the number and size of

263 molecules, would better test our hypothesized relationship between mycomembrane

264 permeation and activity. To this end, we performed a retrospective analysis on a

small molecule library previously screened for anti-Mtb activity^{38, 39}. We looked for

266 sets of molecules within the ~200k Molecular Libraries Small Molecule Repository

267 (MLSMR; data obtained from CDD database³⁵, Burlingame, CA.

www.collaborativedrug.com) collection that have similar structures but differ in the

269 presence or absence of mycomembrane permeability-promoting scaffolds (Fig. 2a-

b) in peripheral positions. We chose this scheme to decrease the likelihood of the

scaffold contributing directly to target engagement. In the four distinct molecule sets

that met our criteria (Fig. 5a-b; Fig. S10), compound activity correlated with the

273 presence of these scaffolds and, more generally, with ML-predicted mycomembrane

permeation (note that standardized residuals are inverted in **Fig. 5**, **Fig. S10**, and

275 **Fig. S12** for more intuitive comparisons to activity).

276 Because we do not know the targets of these compounds, we next examined the



Figure 5. Scaffolds and chemical features that influence mycomembrane permeation correlate with whole cell anti-Mtb activity. (a) Relationship between whole cell anti-Mtb activity and ML-predicted mycomembrane permeability for 101 MLSMR compounds that share the indicated structure. The presence of an indole is highlighted in orange. (b) Four examples of structures from (a), one for each combination +/-indole and +/- activity. (c-d) Scaffold-specific relationship between activity against whole Mtb cells (c) or against a purified Mtb enzyme (serine protease Rv3671c (d)) and observed mycomembrane permeation (inverted standardized residuals). X axis is median mycomembrane permeability for test azides that share indicated scaffolds (from Fig. 2a). Y axis is percentage of activity enrichment for MLSMR and TAACF molecules that share the same scaffold relative to all the molecules in the respective datasets (Figure S12). Y axis data available from CDD (c) or publicly available from PubChem (AID 2606) (d). (e-f) Relationship between (e) whole cell anti-Mtb activity (MLSMR) or (f) purified Rv3671c enzyme inhibition and ML-predicted mycomembrane permeation. Each library was divided into quadrants (threshold for permeability: median; threshold for activity: bottom and top 15% of the total values of the libraries (MLSMR) or bottom and top 1% values (Rv3671c), see Figure S12 for further analyses) and the number of values per quadrant were plotted in (e) and (f) respectively. The association in (e) is significantly stronger than the association in (f) by Cramer's V.

277 relationship between chemical structure, mycomembrane permeability, and whole 278 cell activity more broadly. We widened our analysis to three different screens: the 279 MLSMR (above) and Tuberculosis Antimicrobial Acquisition and Coordinating Facility (TAACF; data obtained from CDD³⁵) small molecule collections, which were 280 281 screened against whole Mtb cells, and a third screen against the purified Mtb 282 enzyme Rv3671c (PubChem AID 2606). In addition to activity data, the libraries 283 afforded us the opportunity to examine molecules that do not have azide tags and 284 occupy broader chemical space than that covered by our screening libraries (Fig. 285 **S11**). We found that molecule activity in the whole cell screens, but not the enzyme 286 screen, correlates with both observed permeability of different chemical scaffolds 287 (Fig. 5c-d; Fig. S12) and with ML-predicted mycomembrane permeability (Fig. 5e-f; 288 Fig. S12). These data suggest that scaffolds and other chemical features that influence mycomembrane permeation are correlates of whole cell anti-Mtb activity. 289

290

291 **Discussion**

292 Mass spectrometry studies that assess whole cell association have found that 293 molecule accumulation varies across E. coli, P. aeruginosa, and Acinetobacter baumannii, likely reflecting species-specific differences in molecule transit via porins, 294 diffusion across the outer membrane, and transit via efflux pumps^{9, 10, 40}. Given that 295 the Mtb mycomembrane has a structure^{6, 12, 13} and porin-like proteins^{41, 42} that are 296 297 distinct from those of the Gram-negative outer membrane, it is not surprising that the predictors of mycomembrane permeation that we identify here are different from 298 those of Gram-negative bacteria accumulation^{9, 10, 27}. Future use of Mtb strains with 299

targeted disruptions to mycomembrane transporters or structural integrity mayenable the identification of pathway-specific predictors of permeation.

302 One limitation of PAC-MAN is that it requires the presence of an azide. Azides are 303 widely recognized as ideal bioorthogonal tags because they are small and have 304 minimal known impacts on the physicochemical properties of the parent compound^{21,} 305 ⁴³. While we cannot rule out potential effects of the azide on mycomembrane 306 permeation, we note that the chemical features that we identified as predictors of this 307 phenotype from azide-tagged libraries are also correlates of whole cell activity for 308 untagged compounds (Fig. 5; Fig. S10; Fig. S12). We speculate that the constancy 309 of the azide across all the test molecules, the large number of test molecules, and 310 the redundancy of some test molecules (*i.e.*, compounds that differ only in the 311 position of the azide) contribute to our ability to predict mycomembrane permeation.

312 Intracellular accumulation in Mtb depends on the ability of a molecule to overcome membrane, efflux, and metabolism barriers^{2, 3}. Because it covalently traps test 313 314 molecules in the mycobacterial cell wall, PAC-MAN primarily measures 315 mycomembrane permeation, e.g., passive diffusion and facilitated transport^{7, 20}. As 316 well, our test molecules are relatively simple in structure as they have a median size of 180 Da and generally abide by Lipinski's rule of five⁴⁴. The restrictions on cell 317 318 compartment and chemical space gueried are both a strength and limitation of our 319 work. On the one hand, we were able to identify clear structure-function relationships 320 for an aspect of intracellular accumulation. Moreover, these relationships, where 321 tested, accurately predicted mycomembrane permeation. Chemical predictors of 322 mycomembrane permeation have obvious potential in informing the (re)design of 323 anti-Mtb therapeutics against periplasmic targets. Direct and indirect data from this

324 work and the literature, respectively, suggest these predictors may have even 325 broader utility, *i.e.*, evaluation of compounds with cytoplasmic targets. On the other 326 hand, the structure-function relationships that we identify here may not suffice as 327 predictors for larger, more complex molecules or for whole cell accumulation. 328 Expansion of the chemical space covered by our azide libraries beyond Lipinski's rule of five⁴⁵, along with whole cell mass spectrometry^{4, 5, 9-11, 40, 46, 47}, adaptation of 329 330 PAC-MAN for the cytoplasm⁴⁸, and the use of strains with defined membrane, efflux, or metabolism defects^{4, 48, 49} will collectively enable the generation of more 331 332 comprehensive accumulation models.

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345 Author contributions

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- 351 wrote the manuscript with the help of all authors. The manuscript was discussed and
- approved by all authors.
- 353
- 354 **Competing Interest Statement**
- 355 M.S.S. is a co-founder and acting CSO of Latde Diagnostics.
- **Supplementary Information is available for this paper**
- 357 Materials Availability
- 358 All reagents generated in this study are available upon request from the
- 359 corresponding authors.

360 Code and Data Availability

- 361 All code, processed input data, and saved model weights for the cheminformatics
- 362 analyses and MycoPermeNet model are available upon request and will be made
- 363 publicly available prior to final publication on
- 364 github: <u>https://github.com/Nevbarunegbe/Mycomembrane-permeability-project.</u>

365

366 Material and methods

367 For a full description of the experimental procedures see **Supplemental Methods**

368 file.

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